

Echo Wednesday September 28, 2011

Second man arrested

SECOND man has been arrested following a stabbing. 20-year-old man was stabbed in the stomach on the Woodgrange Estate at about 2.30pm on Monday. He remains at Southend hospital with serious, but not life-threatening, injuries. A 22-year-old man was arrested in nearby Beresford Road. A second man, aged 20, has now also been arrested. Detectives have also recovered a blood-stained knife. Witnesses should call police at Southend on 101.

Missing girl found safe

A GIRL thought to have run away from home was found safe at a friend's house the next day. Police were called on Saturday evening to a report a 12-year-old girl was missing from her home in High Street, Shoebury. The girl was found late on Sunday at the home of a friend in George Street, Shoebury. The girl was returned to her family and no arrests were made.

Two held in CSA inquiry

TWO men have been arrested following an investigation by the Child Support Agency. Police assisted the agency in making the arrests in Leigh and Rayleigh at 7am yesterday. The were questioned in connection with offences under the Fraud Act 2006. They have now been bailed until October pending further inquiries.

THE Essex Horse and Pony Protection Society is holding a fundraising curry night at the Maharaj Restaurant in London Road, Benfleet, from 8pm on November 17. Tickets cost £16 from 01268 584603.

Two arrested

Activists who are backing travellers' case to stay

A FORMER *Playboy* playmate, a quantum physicist and an award-winning film-maker are among the protesters camped out at Dale Farm.

Marina Pepper, 43, who also practises as a witch and was a Lib Dem councillor, started a glamour modelling career as a Sun page 3 girl aged 17 in 1985, as Marina Baker.

Two years later she visited Hugh Hefner at the *Playboy* Mansion when she was a *Playboy* Playmate of the Month.

Mrs Pepper, who chaired one of the first press conferences at Dale Farm last month, also dabbled with acting, appearing in the 1987 TV movie *Casanova*, starring Richard Chamberlain, and the 1990 short film *Man from China*.

Mrs Pepper told reporters at the illegal site this month the travellers had made a dramatic impact on her life.

She said: "We have been made so welcome by the travellers.

"This is a community which deserves protection."

After turning her back on modelling, she became a journalist in the 1990s, working for national titles, before moving into political activism.

It was while covering protests over the plans to build a bypass at Newbury for the Evening Standard, that she became committed to environmental causes.

In 2006 and 2007, she chaired Lewes District Council, before

By JON AUSTIN and GINA MARDEN

losing her seat to a Tory. She is also said to be a practising Wiccan and author of several children's books on witchcraft.

Renowned quantum physicist Dr Jonathan Oppenheim calls himself Yoshka Pundrick to fellow activists at Dale Farm.

However, the 37-year-old South African has worked with the likes of genius professor Stephen Hawking.

He is now a Royal Society research fellow at Cambridge University's department of applied mathematics and theoretical physics.

He is an expert in quantum information theory and quantum gravity and studied at the University of British Columbia in Canada.

Dr Oppenheim was involved in preparing this week's High Court case which has helped stave off the eviction.

He said: "We are proving that the residents had a reasonable expectation they would get planning permission, because everybody around them was getting it."

Award-winning film-maker Dean Puckett, 29, who made a documentary about the 9/11 terrorist attacks is among activists.

He chained himself to an oil drum full of concrete at Dale



■ Renowned quantum physicist – Jonathan Oppenheim



■ Two lives – Marina Pepper as protester and model

Farm as bailiffs prepared to move on to the site in Oak Lane, Crays Hills last week.

Mr Puckett is used to rubbing shoulders with the movers and shakers of the British film industry.

He made the film *The Elephant in the Room* – a documentary about paranoia in Britain and America in the wake of the 9/11 atrocities – in 2008.

He won an award for best UK documentary at the London Independent Film Festival.

Two other protest leaders,

Natalie Szarek and Jacob Wills, attended sought-after schools and Cambridge University and come from wealthy backgrounds with parents who are professors at leading universities.

Miss Szarek, 24, who calls herself Natalie Fox at Dale Farm, grew up in Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr Wills, 22, known as Jake Fulton at Dale Farm, grew up in a £1million house in fashionable Tufnell Park, North London, and attended the London Oratory School, where Tony Blair sent his children.

Legal plot empty since 2004

A TRAVELLER lost his bid to get permission for an illegally-built bungalow after it came to light he never lived there.

John Flynn, 51, also known as John

He bought one of the legal plots in 2004.

It had permission for a mobile home, but a bungalow had been built without authority. It has lain empty since and is still damaged following a

However, he was unable to provide utility bills required to prove occupancy and the council threw out the application.

Hughie Smith, of the National Gypsy Council, was Mr Flynn's agent. He said: "We stopped..."

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after roof protest

By JON AUSTIN
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Dale Farm campaigners questioned after putting up banner calling for Basildon Council's leader to resign

TWO protesters were arrested after they climbed on to the roof at the entrance to the Basildon Centre.

The men, aged 22 and 29, and believed to be staying at Camp Constant in Dale Farm, waved banners calling for Tony Ball, leader of Basildon Council, to step down because of his bid to evict travellers from the illegal site in Crays Hill.

The pair waved banners and called for Mr Ball's resignation, following the latest court clash which went in the travellers' favour, but faced abuse from some onlookers.

One man shouted back: "Go back to your homes in London you students."

A woman shook her head and said: "The travellers will have to go."

An Essex Police spokesman said: "Police responded to a protest at the Basildon Council offices following a call at noon reporting two men on top of the revolving door entrance to the building in St Martin's Square."

"Officers were deployed due to concerns for the safety of those protesters and visitors to the building."

The men were arrested on suspicion of committing a public order offence and were being questioned yesterday.

Mr Ball hit back, saying: "I answer to the 28 councillors in my

administration and the electorate of Basildon, not protesters from outside the area."

He later released a statement saying the court case was boding well for the council.

It said: "The judge has now determined the majority of the case has gone in the council's favour. What remains to be determined on Monday are a number of technical issues involving the removal of fences, the exact definition of four caravans and whether we can enforce against buildings on two of the 54 plots. The remainder having already been conceded by the lawyers for the travellers."

Ahead of Monday's case, two judicial review applications by the travellers will be heard tomorrow.

The first focuses on the proportionality of taking direct action on a housing matter.

The second argues the eviction should be delayed until the outcome of planning applications for two alternative sites in Basildon, due to be heard in November.

The council hopes the injunction will be lifted on Thursday, but even if it is, travellers are expected to mount a challenge to the Court of Appeal, likely to delay any eviction until after the weekend.



■ Rooftop protest – two men unfold a banner

BA50064

Sisters in TV phone in with Tony Ball



■ On This Morning – the McCarthy sisters

SISTERS from Dale Farm went head-to-head with Basildon Council leader Tony Ball on live TV.

Kathleen McCarthy, spokeswoman for the Dale Farm travellers site, appeared on ITV's This Morning with her four sisters Mary, Margaret, Martina and Joanne McCarthy.

They were interviewed by presenters Phillip Schofield and Holly Willoughby about the ongoing battle between the council and residents of Dale Farm.

Tony Ball spoke to the travellers, who were all wearing the same matching tops as they did at Friday's High Court hearing, as part of a phone-in on the show.

He said they have been talking for ten years and the negotiations were exhausted.

Kathleen replied that she wanted to sit around the table with the council to have a "last-minute solution to this problem".

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